

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Strategic Communications Division
LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday April 1, 2021 2-4 pm

Welcome/Introductions

Present: Greg Wilson, Nicole Kristal, Amparo Ostojic, Alexandra Casanovas, Ana Bernal, Andrea Aoun, Ashley Flores, Bill Sive, Claire Kobren, Crystal Bender, Cynthia Ruffin, Gabrielle Villa, Gerald Garth, Gustavo Velez, Hector Ramirez, Isaias Guzman, Jake Rostovsky, Jamie Estrada, Jasminder Chahal, JavonTae Wilson, Johana Lozano, Live · Xóchi Salas, Makesha Jones-Chambers, Mikey Fields, Pamela Inaba, Rebecca Gitlin, Rebecca Lindquist, Sharon Chapman, Yair Lopez

Presenters: Hugo Mejia (LAHSA), Jonathan Chi (LAHSA)

DMH Admin: Kelly Wilkerson, Keacha Stewart, Pinki Mehta

Getting To Know You: Pam Inaba shared she realized in College at Cal State, Dominguez Hills that she was bisexual. Pam shared she really loved being around people who understood what she was going through and her journey. Pam shared her background is in Recreation Therapy and she likes helping people live a better life by adding recreation. Pam enjoys dancing, bowling, yoga, and meditation. Pam loves being around other people who know what's going on and finding out more about what's in the community.

Review of March 2021 Meeting Minutes – Meeting minutes approved with corrections

LAHSA – Presentation Jonathan Chi & Hugo Mejia, LAHSA

Jonathan Chi, Associate Director for Performance Management, provided an overview of LAHSA's Equal Access and Gender Identity Policy

- Jonathan discussed the policy and requirements that are necessary from providers.
- Jonathan discussed LAHSA's Equal Access and Gender Identity Policy and how they administer it within the community of service providers.
- LAHSA conducted four trainings in four regions on the equal access rule, partnering with the Los Angeles LGBT Center.
- LAHSA's Equal Access and Gender Identity Policy requires that service providers serve clients in accordance with their gender identity.

Hugo Mejia, Quality Standards Coordinator at LAHSA

- Hugo discussed the components of the Equal Access and Gender Policy, the applicability and scope.
- LAHSA promotes that all persons who are eligible to receive services through LAHSA-contracted programs have the right to receive services at a facility that serves the gender with which they identify.

Access to sex-segregated services and facilities

- Persons who do not identify as male or female have the right to be served within the shelters wherever they feel safest.

- Service providers may not ask for proof of gender, nor may they require that a person's gender match the sex listed on legal documentation (e.g. driver's license, ID card, or birth certificate).
- Providers may not deny services to clients because their appearance or behavior does not conform to assumed gender stereotypes.
- In sex-segregated facilities, providers are required to serve all family members in accordance with their gender identity.

Access to Family Programs and facilities

- All persons receiving services through LAHSA-contracted programs must have access to bathrooms consistent with their gender identity, regardless of appearance, biological or physical characteristics, or legally documented sex.
- Service providers may not ask for documented proof of gender as a requisite for bathroom access, nor may they institute different bathroom rules for cisgender and transgender clients.

Ensuring accommodations for safety and privacy

- All persons receiving services through LAHSA-contracted programs have the right to safety and privacy. When privacy or safety concerns are raised by clients, service providers must take nondiscriminatory steps to address them and make reasonable accommodation when appropriate.

Use of names and personal gender pronouns

- All persons receiving services through LAHSA-contracted programs have the right to be known, referred to, and addressed by their name and/or gender pronouns with which they identify, regardless of their name and gender marker on their identity documents.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data collection and intake forms

- All persons receiving services through LAHSA-contracted programs maybe documented in HMIS, on intake forms, and all other data collection tools and repositories according to the gender with which they identify and the name by which they are known. The full name field in HMIS does not require use of a legal name.

Procedures

- Service providers must update intake, admissions, and operational policies and procedures.
- Providers must ensure that all staff, volunteers, and contractors are provided copies of policies and procedures, and that a discussion of policies and procedures forms a part of any introductory training for staff, volunteers, and contractors.
- Service providers should make their revised 3 policies and procedures pertaining to equal access for transgender and gender nonconforming individuals available for all participants.
- All LAHSA-contracted agencies must maintain a grievance and termination procedure that is compliant with LAHSA requirements.
- Participants who feel they have not been afforded equal access may use the LAHSA standard grievance process, in which LAHSA directly connects with participants upon receipt of a grievance.
- LAHSA supports agency compliance of all equal access policies outlined and further detailed through contract requirements and monitoring processes.

LGBTQIA2-S Elder Isolation During & Beyond COVID – Discussion facilitated by Bill Sive

- Bill suggested having more conversations at the university level for educators and students.
- Bill shared they have a relationship with the LA LGBTQ center, a model for intergenerational LGBTQ older adults and youth

- Jeffrey King recommended the Department of Mental Health develop more specific RFAs, which are requests for applications or requests for proposals for LGBTQ elders that prioritize people of color.
- Jeffrey also recommended better data collection for elders that prioritizes LGBTQ+ people of color, with a focus on mental and emotional needs.
- Jeffrey recommended to prioritize elders during the next project proposal period for this subcommittee to ensure there's funding that goes towards elders.
- Bill shared he met with LA LGBTQ Center that has agreed on a post-COVID community event, everyone is invited to join.
- Hector Ramirez asked, "I was just wondering, for Kelly or Pinki, when consumers want to make recommendations for future meetings, who do we send it to? How do we ensure that you get those messages, because this is a stakeholder process. How do we ensure that stakeholders can submit recommendations and they can be read, just like it's been done today. I'm just kind of curious, who do we send it to?"
- Kelly asked that if stakeholders/subcommittee members have recommendations, they should email her or Pinki Mehta (stakeholder lead): KeWilkerson@dmh.lacounty.gov and PDMehta@dmh.lacounty.gov.

DMH Accountability Session

- LyNetta Shonibare, Supervising Psychologist, QI for DMH, would like to talk to the group about SOGI data collection in the consumer perception surveys that DMH does.
- Fiscal year 21-22 capacity building projects to be discussed at the next meeting in May. Kelly sent an email with all of the info regarding Capacity Building Project guidelines and the Proposal Application for the May meeting and will resend.
- Kelly to provide regular updates on the status of the recommendations provided during the subcommittee discussions.

General Announcements

- Live · Xóchi Salas announced that We Exist will be releasing their new series of peer and allied ship support groups April 7. They invited members to reach out if they want to learn more about the support groups. They also shared that We Exist has a parent workshop on how to support LGBTQ youth and building allyship. We Exist is also hiring two Health Educators, one available in Long Beach and South Bay, and the other one available in the San Fernando Valley and Antelope Valley areas. They will forward this information to Kelly.
- Hector Ramirez requested that subcommittee members make recommendations for the 3-year MHSA plan open for public comment now.
- Johana Lozano asked if people were interested in making comments for the 3-year plan, April 22nd is the deadline. Anyone interested can email Johana with questions Wednesday.johana@gmail.com.
- Amparo Ostijic announced she is a Peer Crisis Counselor and talks to consumers about anxiety and stress. It is a warmline/chat that is available to everyone.
- Hector Ramirez encouraged the members to attend the Measure J Meeting at 4:00 pm (today).
- Bill Sive shared the CCC is looking for subcommittees to contribute towards language translation services and suggestions on dissemination for the Cultural Traditions Magazine. The CCC is looking to start working on contributing for the next issue, which will be April/May/June. Bill suggested as a committee to conceive some kind of concept to do something for Pride month as a group and people to provide reviewer

roles, content providers, updating the UsCC and a point of contact. Bill shared the content can be anything such as knowledge, understanding, connections, networking, poems, quotes, recipes.

- Cynthia Ruffin from Colors of LGBTQ Youth Counseling Services, announced on April 13th, Colors will be C2PLA, Connect-to-Protect L.A. out of the Children's Hospital. They will be doing a panel looking at National Youth H.I.V. and AIDS Awareness Month. Speakers are going to talk about how HIV and AIDS are still affecting our youth communities. Cynthia also shared that last year, Colors started a speakers series. This academic year it is looking at issues facing the trans community, and looking at trans resilience and trans joy and trans success. This upcoming one will be in May, it will be uplifting the voices of trans identified service providers. Colors is still co-facilitating a Black LGBTQ Parents/Caregivers and support group, which happens once a month on the last Thursday of the month, conducted virtually. It is going really well and we have had some really wonderful conversations. Cynthia also shared they have a Youth Blog that starts in April. It is going to be called "Curious" by their youth blogger, who will be blogging anonymously. The first blog will be about why they decided to blog anonymously. In the coming months, Colors will start offering a couple of continuing education certificates.

Upcoming Meetings

6/3/21, 7/1/21, 8/5/21, 9/2/21 (all meetings 2-4pm)

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

323-776-6996, Conference ID: 542 042 921#

All meeting recordings can be found at: <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/about/mhsa/uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc/lgbtqia2-s-uscc-meeting-minutes/>